

Cleaning and Maintenance of Planex Products

Powder Coated Surfaces

The following information is reprinted from the Dulux Maintenance & Refurbishment of Polyester Powder Coatings May 2008 revision 3 Application Notes:

It is important that maintenance be done on a regular basis. Dirt, grime and airborne salt deposits from the atmosphere are often capable of causing damage to the coating surface and must be regularly removed. It is recommended that cleaning be done routinely at a three monthly interval; six months should be considered the maximum interval especially if the item is in a marine or other corrosive environments and areas prone to atmospheric fallout.

In the cleaning process, the following should be noted:

- a. Cleaning should be done with a dilute solution of a mild liquid detergent in warm water. Avoid excessively hot solutions.
- b. Use a soft bristle brush or similar to clean the surface. Do not use abrasive tools on the coating.
- c. After cleaning, rinse the film thoroughly with fresh water.
- d. The use of bore water for cleaning is not recommended due to its mineral content.

Do not use strong solvent type cleaners on the coating unless it is necessary to remove materials from the surface such as adhesives. A small test area should be checked prior to solvent cleaning to ensure that no damage to the film or colour change will occur.

- a. Use the weakest possible solvent such as Methylated spirits, white spirits or Isopropanol. Ensure the contact time for the solvent is minimal, and that the solvent is thoroughly rinsed from the surface.
- b. Where more aggressive cleaning is required, a very mild abrasive such as a high quality automotive cream polish, used in accordance with the manufacturers' instructions, may be necessary. The use of strongly abrasive compounds such as cutting compounds is not recommended.

S Series and Virtu Polypropylene Door Tracks

- a. Cleaning and lubrication of the door tracks and doors is an important factor in assisting the prevention of general wear and tear and ensuring smooth operation.
- b. Check tracks regularly and vacuum any dust, debris and foreign objects such as paperclips and staples. The build-up of dust will form an abrasive which can lead to the wear of the door slats.
- c. We recommended that after vacuuming you spray your tracks every 6-12 months or whenever they feel a little tight, with some white lithium spray.

For example: http://www.bunnings.com.au/wd-40-specialist-300g-high-performance-white-lithium-grease_p6100408

Wishbone Table Tops

The following information is reprinted from the Laminex® Appendix General Care & Maintenance of Laminex® Decorative Surfaced Products issued March 2006.

Laminex® Decorative Surfaced Products are hardwearing materials, but like all materials can be damaged if used with- out some care and maintenance. The following information should help in assisting you to maintain the surface of your Laminex® product with the minimum of time and effort.

Cleaning

A wipe over with a clean soft damp cloth should be sufficient to keep all Laminex® decorative surfaces clean.

Soiled surfaces or light stains are removed with warm soapy water or with a common detergent, containing no abrasive or strongly acidic or alkaline ingredients eg Mr. Muscle Nifty, Flash Liquid or Bathroom Plus.

It may be necessary where the surface is of a texture or embossed finish to use a brush similar to a tooth or nail brush. Wax or other polishes are unnecessary and should not be used on decorative surfaces.

Stains

Spills of any nature should be wiped up as soon as they occur. Laminex® decorative surfaces are resistant to most household products, but not absolutely stain proof.

They are unaffected by normal household reagents such as detergents, non-bleach washing powders, nail polish remover, petrol, methylated spirits, mineral turpentine, fly spray, grease and shoe polish.

Tea, beetroot juice, red wine, fruit juices, hypochlorite bleach, hydrogen peroxide solution in any concentration, mineral acids, caustic solution, sodium bisulphate, potassium permanganate in any concentration, berry juices, silver nitrate or silver fluoride solutions, gentian violet in any concentration, mild silver protein, laundry blue, dye or iodine solution (alcohol containing 1% iodine), will cause stains if not removed immediately.

If stain damage does occur, endeavor to remove by using either the normal cleaning method or appropriate solvents. If the stain persists, apply a mild abrasive such as white toothpaste applied with a soft toothbrush or cloth.

Never use a harsh abrasive or steel wool.

Stains such as residual lacquer and paints or adhesives can generally be cleaned without difficulty, particularly if the material has not been allowed to harden for weeks. Some special types of adhesives and paints cyanoacrylates and epoxy resins must be removed before setting takes place as they cannot be dissolved without affecting the laminate surface.

Laminex® decorated board products are unaffected by normal household reagents, ie. petrol, flyspray, soaps, non-bleach washing powders and detergents, coffee, wax crayon and shoe polish. Laminex® decorated Board products should not remain in contact with hypochlorite bleach, caustic solutions, hydrogen peroxide solution in any concentrations, mineral acid, sodium bisulphate, potassium permanganate in any concentration, berry juices, silver nitrate (1% concentration), gentian violet in any concentration, mild silver protein, laundry blue dye or iodine solution (alcohol contains 1% iodine)

Laminex® decorated boards have the same colourfast properties as standard laminate. As such, under normal conditions of interior use, colour retention is assured. However, constant exposure to sunlight and moisture will cause it, like most fabrics and paints, to change colour. For this reason Laminex® decorated boards are not recommended for exterior use.

Common Adhesives and Paints can be Removed with the Following Materials:

1. Alcohols (methylated spirits, methanol)
2. Aromatics (xylene, petrol)
3. Aliphatics (mineral turpentine, kerosene)
4. Oils (mineral oil, vegetable oil)
5. Ketones (acetones, nail polish remover)
6. Ether – alcohols (cellosolves, carbitoles)
7. Paint thinners (being a mixture of above)
8. Lacquer thinners (without the addition of acid)

Note: acidic based paint strippers must not be used.

Danger

Some of the above listed solvents are extremely flammable and vapours harmful. Keep away from heat, sparks and open flame. Keep containers closed. Avoid prolonged breathing of vapour. Avoid prolonged or repeated contact with skin. Use adequate ventilation.

Oil Paints

If reasonably fresh, can be normally removed by groups 1, 2, 3, 4 and 7.

If aged, can be generally removed by more aggressive solvents such as 5, 6 and 8.

Enamels

Generally require solvents from groups 2, 5, 6 and 8.

Contact Adhesives

If not too old and cured, can be removed by 2, 4, 5 and 8.

PVA - Adhesive Types

Can generally be removed with soap and water and solvent groups 1 and 3.

Paraffin wax residue from candles should be scraped off, taking care not to scratch the surface in the process.

Scratches and Cuts

Laminex® Decorative surfaces can be damaged by chopping and cutting directly onto the surface and to prevent this happening, a cutting board or chopping board should always be used.

Sliding of heavy metallic or earthenware objects can cause scuffing of the surface. Fine scratches or scuff marks can often be removed by the application of a good quality car polish.

Severe cuts and scratches can be repaired with Laminex® Colorfill™ specially formulated colour matched kit for sealing joints and repairing damaged decorative surfaces.